

**Testimony of Bette Marafino, President
Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Monday, March 21, 2022**

In support of Raised S.B. 443 An Act Concerning The Tax Incidence Report, Tax Incidence Analyses And The Disclosure Of Returns And Return Information.

Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. Thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Bette Marafino. I am a resident of West Hartford and the President of the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans. The Alliance is the state affiliate of the national Alliance for Retired Americans and the Connecticut AFL-CIO and comprises 50,000 members in Connecticut. We are a member of the Recovery for All coalition.

We come before you to urge your support and passage of Raised Senate Bill 443 – An Act Concerning the Tax Incidence Report, Tax Incidence Analyses And The Disclosure Of Returns And Return Information.

I draw your attention in particular to lines 17 to 19 of this bill which, among others, singles out the need to report the tax burden on senior citizens. As you already know, seniors live on a fixed income.

This past Sunday on one of the local television stations, the topic of Connecticut residents leaving the state was discussed.

The Connecticut Alliance hears from members that the most often reason for leaving the state is not a warmer climate, though that too is an incentive, but the promise of lower taxes. I have heard this from family and friends. One of my retired friends told me before she moved to North Carolina that she'd rather stay here in Connecticut because her children and grandchildren are here, but her fixed income will serve her better in a state where taxes aren't so high.

We don't begrudge that Connecticut has billionaires and multi-millionaires, but we do believe that attention should be paid to a deep analyses and disclosure of tax returns and disclosure information.

Last Fall, I took a course at the University of Hartford's Presidents' College called "The Two Connecticuts ". This course gave concrete examples of how unequal our state is in regard to education, housing and, yes, taxes. This excellent course has been recorded and is available on the University's website. I urge you to consider it as another impetus to pass Raised S.B. 443.

Thank you for your attention.

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